

population of 60,400. While agribusinesses continues to be an important part of its economy, a growing number of residents are employed in a wide array of industries spread across the North Texas landscape. Wise County has developed a reputation as having a small town lifestyle with urban amenities nearby. Seventeen incorporated towns and cities are part of Wise County. They include: Alvord, Aurora, Boyd, Bridgeport, Briar, Chico, Decatur, Greenwood, Lake Bridgeport, Newark, New Fairview, Paradise, Pecan Acres, Rhome, Runaway Bay and Slidell.

To celebrate its heritage, Wise County commemorates its founding from September 30 through October 7, 2006, with the Wise County Sesquicentennial celebration. The Wise County Sesquicentennial celebration honors the past and recognizes the future with events in every corner of the county.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Wise County on the 150th anniversary of its establishment and to offer sincere appreciation for the many contributions Wise County and its great citizens have made to Texas and the United States over the last 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR
TOMMY ED ROBERTS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alabama State Senator Tommy Ed Roberts. Senator Roberts has represented Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties in the Alabama State Senate since 1994 and served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1974 through 1982. Senator Roberts recently announced his retirement from public service and in April concluded his final legislative session.

I consider it a privilege to have worked with Senator Roberts on a wide variety of issues facing Morgan County. He has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community.

During his many years of service in the State Legislature, Senator Roberts' peers elected him to numerous legislative leadership positions. He served as the Chairman of the Senate Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

Senator Roberts' well known legislative accomplishments include his work to create Alabama's identity theft protection laws and his bill to allow Morgan County to give a portion of its sales tax to help fund volunteer fire departments.

In addition to serving Morgan County as a State Legislator, Senator Roberts was a champion of economic development and expansion. He served as Executive Director of the Morgan County Industrial Development Association and the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority for many years and is credited with helping to create over 14,000 jobs. He played a large role in successfully recruiting the Boeing Delta IV Rocket Plant and Nucor Steel plants to Decatur, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Roberts is well respected throughout our local community and the entire State of Alabama. On Saturday, September 23rd, the North Alabama commu-

nity will gather to honor and celebrate all of Senator Roberts' achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to thank Senator Roberts for his many years of dedicated service.

HONORING THE BRAVE WARRIORS
WHO HAVE ENLISTED IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST NARCO-TERRORISM

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave warriors who have enlisted in the fight against narco-terrorism. Some, like Edna McAber of Baltimore, have narrowly escaped death. Others, like Carnell and Angela Dawson and their five beautiful children, were not so lucky.

The front page of the Tuesday, September 19, 2006 edition of the Baltimore Sun tells the story of Ms. McAber, a tireless community activist who made it her personal mission to fight back drug trafficking in her neighborhood of Harwood.

For her efforts, her car was keyed, her tires were slashed, bricks were thrown through her windows, and finally—18 months ago—her house was firebombed.

Ms. McAber survived the attack, but only to be exiled from the neighborhood she loved enough to try to save.

Sadly, stories like hers are not unprecedented in Baltimore. This October marks the 4-year anniversary of one of the most terrible tragedies I have witnessed in my lifetime.

Mrs. Dawson, like Ms. McAber, was a warrior for her community. She fought to get drug dealers off her street, and away from her five young children. She paid for her efforts with her life.

Drug dealers one night filled the Dawson family home with gasoline, and set it up in flames. All five children and their mother died in the attack. Mr. Dawson, who sustained burns over 85 percent of his body, died a week later.

When I sat at the Dawson family funeral 4 years ago, looking at those five small caskets and one big casket, I thought to myself: How did we get here?

I have lived my whole life in inner city Baltimore. I have seen the innocent little girls who used to play hopscotch on my block grow up to sell their bodies for drugs. I have seen brilliant little boys with endless potential head off to jail instead of college.

The disease of drugs plagues every facet of our community, robbing children of their childhood, and denying decent people the opportunity to thrive.

It is a pervasive disease that reaches far beyond our inner cities, tormenting the lives of people in communities across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am as committed to the global war on terrorism as any member of this body, and I commend our brave warriors who risk their lives every day so that we might be safer.

But don't be fooled: Terrorism lives here at home as well.

Warriors like Mrs. Dawson and Ms. McAber have fought for our freedom with their livelihoods and their lives.

Just as we honor our soldiers in Iraq by providing them with the most sophisticated defense technology on the market, we must honor our domestic warriors by providing law enforcement officials with the best tools available to protect them.

That is why I introduced the "Dawson Family Community Protection Act" (H.R. 812) and the "Witness Security and Protection Act" (H.R. 908).

The "Dawson Family Community Protection Act," which would provide protections to neighborhood activists, passed the House in March as part of the "Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act" (H.R. 2829).

I want to thank my colleagues in the House for their support of this vital initiative and I urge our colleagues in the Senate to follow suit by passing the ONDCP reauthorization.

The "Witness Security and Protection Act" would provide much-needed federal funds to state-run witness protection programs.

I implore my colleagues, in honor of Ms. McAber, the Dawson family, and the countless others who have suffered and continue to suffer from the violent fallout of the drug trade and the ravages of drug abuse, to support the "Witness Security and Protection Act," H.R. 908.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT L.D.
BELL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District's L.D. Bell High School as it celebrates its 50th anniversary of providing quality education for its students. L.D. Bell has been a fixture in the H-E-B community since 1957. Lawrence Dale Bell High School was opened on a site donated to the school district by the late Larry Bell, Founder and President of Bell Helicopter Textron in Hurst.

Rapid student growth and academic excellence have been the cornerstone of Bell High School. During its 50-year history, L.D. Bell has earned state and national recognition in academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership training and service disciplines. These numerous honors resulted in the recognition of L.D. Bell as a National Blue Ribbon School during the 1994–1996 school terms.

L.D. Bell's high school motto affirms that they "Do not imitate but are a role model for others." The accomplishments that L.D. Bell High School has achieved in its first 50 years certainly exemplify this. With half a century of success behind them, I am confident that L.D. Bell will continue to educate and inspire the young adults that walk its halls today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today and honor the 50th anniversary of L.D. Bell High School for their dedication and continuing commitment to education in my congressional district.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDUARDO
ANDRES LUCIO, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eduardo Andres Lucio, Sr., the father of the Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., who recently passed away on September 4, 2006 at 89 years of age.

Eduardo Andres Lucio, Sr., was born on November 10, 1916, in the City of Brownsville in the State of Texas to his parents, Teodoro Lucio and Maria Antonia Lopez Lucio. He then was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church at the historic Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville on June 11, 1916. He was one of 11 children: eight brothers and three sisters.

Mr. Lucio also has a long familial lineage that stretches all the way back to King Ferdinand the Catholic of Spain, and several of his ancestors were conquistadores who fought with Hernan Cortez in the early 1500s in Mexico. Some of the descendants of his ancestors include the founders of Matamoros, Monterrey, Mier, Saltillo, and Camargo, Mexico.

In 1937, during the Great Depression, he worked at the Chapman Ranch in Kingsville, Texas, and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in Bonita Canyon in the small town of Douglas in Arizona. He later met and fell in love with his wife, Josefa Liendo, who would become his future wife of 65 years and mother to his 10 children. He then joined the United States Army Air Corps on December 30, 1941, in San Antonio, Texas, to fight on behalf of the United States of America in World War II. He was a part of the 46th Service Squadron which served in North Africa and in Italy.

Mr. Lucio was honorably discharged from the Army of the United States on July 3, 1945, for a near-fatal injury which he had suffered in battle. He has various decorations and citations which include the EAME Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, four Bronze Service Stars, and four Overseas Bars. In 1996, during a ceremony held in the City of McAllen in the State of Texas, other World War II medals and ribbons were given to him by Vice President Al Gore.

He worked hard for his family by achieving his goals of a higher education, first with the diploma from Brownsville High School on May 30, 1949, and then an Associate in Business Degree from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, on May 29, 1950. He then worked at the Cameron County Courthouse in the Sheriff's Office for almost 30 years, and in his last 3 years, he served as Head Office Deputy Sheriff with great pride. Mr. Lucio retired from his civil service in 1979, and enjoyed his retirement as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans of America. He also took great strength from his faith as a Roman Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Mr. Lucio is survived by his 19 grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren. His eldest son, Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., has served as a public official for over 33 years. He has left behind a remarkable legacy in his children, who have de-

grees in education, administration, supervision, business, engineering, classical music, law, medicine, theater arts, school counseling, chemistry, biology, pharmaceutical sciences, and technology. He truly led by example and inspired his children to be the best they could be in achieving their dreams and goals.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Eduardo Lucio, Sr.

WORDS OF CONDOLENCE CONCERNING A DEDICATED EDUCATOR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise to recognize a teacher and friend, Sona Polakowski. She succumbed to cancer on September 15. I join her husband Bob, her daughter Jen, her son Mark, her family, friends and admirers in mourning her loss and in celebrating her life.

Born in Jersey City, NJ, Sona resided in Lawrenceville, NJ for the past 35 years. A graduate of Seton Hall University, she was project director for math and science at the Lawrence Township Board of Education. Sona was a member of the New Jersey Education Association, National Science Teachers Association and Congregation Brothers of Israel.

For the past 15 years, it has been my privilege to work with Sona to improve children's education. Her cheerful determination was her most apparent characteristic. She gave hundreds of teachers the confidence and knowledge to teach science; and, most of all, she shared her determination. Her effect on others will remain with thousands of students for generations to come. She will be missed by me, my staff, and the many teachers and others with whom she worked.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS ANTHONY DAVILA-LAWRENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the passing of Mr. Francis Anthony Davila-Lawrence, a loving father, veteran, public servant, union leader and community activist who passed away in Brooklyn, New York, on August 5, 2006. I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD his obituary which captures his many contributions and achievements to the great State of New York. We will never forget him. Thank you.

FRANCIS ANTHONY DAVILA-LAWRENCE,
JANUARY 9, 1921–AUGUST 5, 2006

Francis Anthony Davila-Lawrence, known by some friends as Frank and by other friends as Francisco, left this life on August 5, 2006 at 85 years of age. Francis was born in Harlem Hospital on January 9, 1921 to a Panamanian-Caribbean mother and a Cuban father.

Francis was a New Yorker. He spent the majority of his life working and building businesses in and about New York City. Francis married twice, raising three chil-

dren, whom he loved dearly. With his first wife, Eunice Williams, they raised a son, Michael, and a daughter, Aleta. Later in life, he married Louise Simon, and raised a second son, Jason.

With Frank's passing goes a library of stories and experiences. He grew up during the Great Depression. He attended the very first World's Fair, seeing a microwave decades before they would ever come to use in an American household. He traveled throughout the Bronx, Harlem, and Jamaica, Queens during his youth in a Ford Model T, which he said had terrible brakes. He served in the Navy during World War II, and then went on to serve with the Merchant Marines as a civilian worker, and in the Coast Guard during the 1950s.

He was a hard worker. Frank worked as a cook at several of the large hotels and restaurants in Manhattan before going to work at the New York City Board of Education, where he worked 30 years, retiring as a Senior IBM TAB Operator. He had been one of the few Black or Latino workers to be trained to work on the then-massive IBM computers, which took up whole floors to do what we do today with a laptop. While at the Board of Education, he was an active unionist, serving in several union leadership positions. He was an active participant in the fight for dignity and fair wages for working people.

Francis dreamed of bigger and better things for his family and worked to provide opportunities for his children. He worked to exhaustion to make sure his family had what they needed. Later, as a haustion real estate investor, he amassed properties across New York City and elsewhere. Frank worked so much that his family often joked that he worked eight days per week. In addition to his full-time job, he maintained a number of supplemental jobs, including working as a cook at Brooklyn's famous Junior's Restaurant, working weekends for the Free Sons of Israel, and as a security guard for the ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union).

After his retirement at age 65, he purchased a small newsstand in Manhattan's Wall Street district "just to keep himself busy." Frank's personality and laughter lit up rooms. He had a gleam in his eye, and hardly held his tongue. He was an excellent dancer. Throughout his life, he was an avid reader, taking his glasses off and squinting one eye to get a clear look at the words on the pages of the New York Post or the Amsterdam News. He thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic stories of the National Enquirer.

He had a gentle place in his heart that was untouched by life's hardships. He loved dogs and cats. He also loved children, putting a ship's silver dollar for luck into many babies' hands. He was an optimist about his health, the future, and his ability to do things at any point in his life.

As a youth, he adventured widely, seeing many parts of the world. When asked about his life's long list of adventures, he said that more than anything he accomplished during this lifetime, he found joy in seeing his children brought into the world. He instilled a sense of family, honor, and justice in his children, maintaining these things mattered most in life.

He loved his children passionately. Family was the most important thing in his life and he was more than anything else, a proud father of three wonderful children whose successes filled him with pride throughout his life.

Frank leaves to mourn his loss wife Louise, ex-wife Eunice, children Michael, Aleta and Jason, daughter-in-law Norma, sisters Gloria, Angela, and Marie, and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.